IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A manipulator-guided gripping device ~~(1)~~ for workpieces [[,]] and ~~especially~~ body parts in [[the]] a body shell, ~~wherein~~ the gripping device ~~(1) has~~ comprising: a plurality of ~~said~~ device parts ~~(6, 7, 8) and~~ ; a safety means ~~(9)~~ for detecting changes in geometry~~, characterized in that the safety means (9) has~~ including at least one deflectable safety device ~~(10)~~ at the device parts ~~(6, 7, 8)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the deflectable safety device ~~(10)~~ is arranged at a junction point ~~(23)~~ between the device parts ~~(6, 7, 7', 7'', 8)~~.

3. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the deflectable safety device ~~(10)~~ has at least two said safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ that are mounted such that they can deflect along one or more axes in case of overload.

4. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim ~~1, 2 or~~ 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ are connected to one another by clamping connection and frictional connection.

5. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim ~~1, 2 or~~ 3,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ are connected to one another in a positive-locking manner by at least one said deflectable locking element ~~(13)~~.

6. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ are connected to a device part ~~(6, 7, 7', 7'', 8)~~ each.

7. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the locking element ~~(13)~~ is arranged between the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~.

8. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the locking element ~~(13)~~ is held with an elastic clamping element ~~(20)~~.

9. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the locking element ~~(13)~~ and the clamping element ~~(20)~~ are set to a force that holds the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ during normal operation.

10. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ are designed as a sphere

~~(15, 15')~~ and as a socket ~~(14, 14')~~ surrounding same.

11. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sphere is designed as a joint ball ~~(15)~~ and the socket is designed as a straight tube section ~~(14)~~.

12. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 10, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the sphere is designed as a ring-shaped collar ~~(15')~~ with a spherical outer side and the socket is designed as a calotte ~~(14')~~ surrounding same with an inner side rounded in a complementary manner.

13. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the collar ~~(15')~~ and the calotte ~~(14')~~ surrounding same have essentially the same width.

14. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim 3 ~~one of the claims 1 through 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ are designed as ~~said~~ disk mounts ~~(16, 17)~~ with parallel working surfaces.

15. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ have an adjusting means

~~(33)~~ for reproducible mutual positioning.

16. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ have one or more ~~said~~ detectors ~~(24)~~, which detect and signal deflections of the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~.

17. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detector ~~(24)~~ is arranged eccentrically in relation to the central axis ~~(38)~~ of the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim 16 ~~one of the claims 1 through 16~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detector ~~(24)~~ is arranged centrally in the central axis ~~(38)~~ of the safety device parts ~~(11, 12)~~ the safety device parts have an adjusting means for reproducible mutual positioning and the detector is designed as a part of the adjusting means ~~(33)~~.

19. (Currently Amended) A gripping ~~Deflectable safety~~ device in accordance with claim 18, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detector ~~(24)~~ has a pressure piece ~~(44)~~, which is mounted in an elastically movable manner in an end-side tube section ~~(43)~~ of the shaft ~~(37)~~ and whose ~~said~~ projecting head part ~~(45)~~ engages a mount ~~(47)~~ at a projection ~~(39)~~ of the other safety device part ~~(11)~~ in a positive-locking manner, wherein a microswitch ~~(48)~~ is arranged at the

contact point.

20. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 16, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detectors ~~(24)~~ are connected to a process control ~~(26)~~.

21. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that the gripping device (1) has~~ further comprising: a frame ~~(4)~~ with one or more said gripping or clamping elements ~~(6)~~ and with a docking point ~~(5)~~ for connection to a mechanical manipulator ~~(2), especially~~ in the form of a multiaxial industrial robot.

22. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with ~~one of the above claims~~ claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame ~~(4)~~ has a plurality of said frame tubes ~~(7, 8)~~.

23. (Currently Amended) A gripping device in accordance with claim 15, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the frame tubes ~~(7, 8)~~ are divided~~,~~ and wherein a deflectable safety device ~~(10)~~ is arranged between the tube sections ~~(7', 7'')~~.